

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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NOV 07 2003

Technology Center 2600

APPLICANT: Nako, et al.

Confirmation: 2443

U.S.S.N.: 09/720,475

Art Unit: 2622

FILED: December 22, 2000

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

FOR: IMAGE PROCESSOR, IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD, AND MEDIUM ON WHICH IMAGE PROCESSING PROGRAM IS RECORDED

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop No Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on October 31, 2003.

By:

Helen Murray Tarbi
Helen Murray Tarbi

SEARCH REPORT INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant hereby submits an Information Disclosure Statement for consideration by the Examiner.

I. LIST OF PATENTS, PUBLICATIONS OR OTHER INFORMATION

The patents, publications or other information submitted for consideration by the Office are listed on PTO-1449, attached hereto.

II. COPIES

- a. X Submitted herewith is a legible copy of (i) each U.S and foreign patent; (ii) each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and (iii) all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed.
- b. _____ Each of the patents, publications or other information listed on the attached PTO-1449 was previously cited by or submitted to the USPTO in connection with U.S.S.N.: _____, to which the subject application claims the benefit of the earlier filing date. As such, a copy of each is not included herewith pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d).

III. CONCISE EXPLANATION OF THE RELEVANCE
(check at least one box)

- a. X Except as may be indicated below in (b), all of the patents, publications or other information are in the English language or were cited in an English language Search Report, a copy of which is attached hereto (concise explanation not required).
- b. X A concise explanation of the relevance of all patents, publications or other information listed that is not in the English language is as follows:
- English translation for reference(s) _____.
 - X English abstract for reference **B1-B5**.
 - English translation of search report.
 - Copy of PCT/EPO Search Report.
- c. X The following additional information is provided for the Examiner's consideration:
- A copy of EPO Search Report.
 - A copy of PCT Search Report.
 - X A copy of two Official Communications from the Japanese Patent Office (Appln. Nos. 10-183469 & 10-187058).
 - English translation of search report/ official communication from the _____.
 - Copy of _____.

FEES

IV. THIS IDS IS BEING FILED UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)
(check one box)

- a. within three months of the filing date of a national application (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b) (1)). No fee or certification is required.
- b. within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in §1.491 in an international application (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b) (2)). No fee or certification is required.
- c. X before the mailing date of a first Action on the merits (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b) (3)). No fee or certification is required. In the event that a first Office Action on the merits has been issued, please consider this IDS under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) and see the certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) below, or, if no certification has been made, charge our deposit account a fee in the amount of \$240.00 as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

V. THIS IDS IS BEING FILED UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c):
(check one box)

before the mailing date of a Final Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113 (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) (1)) or before the mailing date of a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311 (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) (2)).

- a. ☐ No certification; therefore, a fee in the amount of \$240.00 is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).
or
b. ☐ See the certification below. No fee is required.

VI. CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) (check only one box)

The undersigned hereby certifies that

- a. ☒ each item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS; or
b. ☐ no item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the best of my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.
c. ☐ Some of the items of information were cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office. As to this information, the undersigned certifies that each item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS. As to the remaining information, the undersigned hereby certifies that no item of this remaining information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the best of my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

VII. FEE PAYMENT (check one)

- ☐ Enclosed please find a check in the amount of \$240.00 for the above-indicated fee.

____ Please charge Deposit Account No. 04-1105 in the amount of \$240.00 for the above-indicated fee.

X No fee is required.

REMARKS

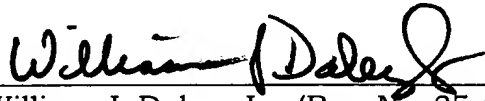
Applicants would note that the certain of the references listed in the Official Communication for JP Appln. No. 10-187058 (namely; JP-A- 8-265563, JP-A- 6-62216, JP-A- 9-233319 and JP-A- 9-312770) are not enclosed herewith or listed in the enclosed PTO-1449. These references were previously identified and submitted to the USPTO by Applicants in the Information Disclosure Statements dated June 11, 2001.

Applicants also would note that the USP 5,953,463 relates to reference B1 (claims priority to JP appln no. listed in B1) and USP 5,832,141 relates to reference B5 (claims priority to the JP appln no. listed in B5). Applicants also note that references A1 and B1 are assigned to the assignee of the present invention.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this IDS, he/she is requested to contact the undersigned. If it is determined that this IDS has been filed under the wrong rule, the PTO is requested to consider this IDS under the proper rule, with a petition if necessary, and charge the appropriate fee to Deposit Account No. 04-1105.

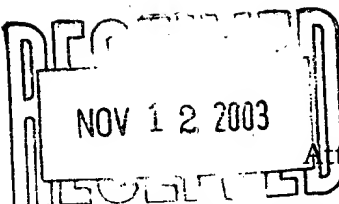
Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 31, 2003


William J. Daley, Jr., (Reg. No. 35,487)
Edwards & Angell, LLP
P.O. Box 9169
Boston, MA 02209

Telephone: (617) 517-5556
Customer No.: 21874

BOS2_353481.1



#10
ST
11-13-03

2622

Attorney Docket No. 55338 (70868)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Nako, et al.

Confirmation: 2443

U.S.S.N.: 09/720,475

Art Unit: 2622

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II. COPIES

- a. X Submitted herewith is a legible copy of (i) each U.S and foreign patent; (ii) each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and (iii) all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed.
- b. Each of the patents, publications or other information listed on the attached PTO-1449 was previously cited by or submitted to the USPTO in connection with U.S.S.N.: _____, to which the subject application claims the benefit of the earlier filing date. As such, a copy of each is not included herewith pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d).

III. CONCISE EXPLANATION OF THE RELEVANCE
(check at least one box)

- a. **X** Except as may be indicated below in (b), all of the patents, publications or other information are in the English language or were cited in an English language Search Report, a copy of which is attached hereto (concise explanation not required).
- b. **X** A concise explanation of the relevance of all patents, publications or other information listed that is not in the English language is as follows:
- X** English translation for reference **B1**.
 - English abstract for reference
 - English translation of search report.
 - Copy of PCT/EPO Search Report.
- c. **X** The following additional information is provided for the Examiner's consideration:
- A copy of EPO Search Report.
 - A copy of PCT Search Report.
 - X** A copy of Official Communication from the Chinese Patent Office.
 - English translation of search report/ official communication

Applicants also would note that the USP 6,504,628 and the Chinese document CN 1201169 both claim foreign priority to JP 9-140215.

FEES

IV. THIS IDS IS BEING FILED UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)
(check one box)

- a. within three months of the filing date of a national application (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b) (1)). No fee or certification is required.
- b. within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in §1.491 in an international application (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b) (2)). No fee or certification is required.
- c. **X** before the mailing date of a first Action on the merits (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b) (3)). No fee or certification is required. In the event that a first Office Action on the merits has been issued, please consider this IDS under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) and see the certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) below, or, if no certification has been made, charge our deposit account a fee in the amount of \$240.00 as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

V. THIS IDS IS BEING FILED UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c):
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before the mailing date of a Final Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113 (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) (1)) or before the mailing date of a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311 (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) (2)).

- a. ☐ No certification; therefore, a fee in the amount of \$240.00 is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).
or
b. ☐ See the certification below. No fee is required.

VI. CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) (check only one box)

The undersigned hereby certifies that

- a. ☒ each item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS; or
b. ☐ no item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the best of my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.
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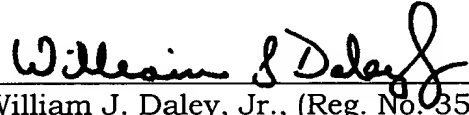
REMARKS

Applicants would note that the second reference cited in the Chinese Office Action, JP-A- 8-251427 is not enclosed herewith or listed in the enclosed PTO-1449. This reference was previously identified and submitted to the USPTO by Applicants in the Information Disclosure Statements dated June 11, 2001.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this IDS, he/she is requested to contact the undersigned. If it is determined that this IDS has been filed under the wrong rule, the PTO is requested to consider this IDS under the proper rule, with a petition if necessary, and charge the appropriate fee to Deposit Account No. 04-1105.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 31, 2003



William J. Daley, Jr., (Reg. No. 35,487)
Edwards & Angell, LLP
P.O. Box 9169
Boston, MA 02209

Telephone: (617) 517-5556
Customer No.: 21874



2622
NOV 12 2003
Attorney Docket No. 55338 (70868)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Nako, et al.

Confirmation: 2443

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Art Unit: 2622

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FILED: December 22, 2000

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 - X English abstract for reference **B1-B6**.
 - English translation of search report.
 - Copy of PCT/EPO Search Report.
- c. X The following additional information is provided for the Examiner's consideration:
- A copy of EPO Search Report.
 - A copy of PCT Search Report.
 - X A copy of two Official Communications from the Japanese Patent Office (Appln. Nos. 10-175244 & 10-175245).
 - English translation of search report/ official communication from the _____.
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VI. CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) (check only one box)

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REMARKS

Applicants would note that the one of the reference (namely JP-A- 8-251427) identified in the Official Communication from the Japanese Patent Office for Japanese Application No. 10-175244, is not enclosed herewith or listed in the enclosed PTO-1449. This reference was previously identified and submitted to the USPTO by Applicants in the Information Disclosure Statements dated June 11, 2001.

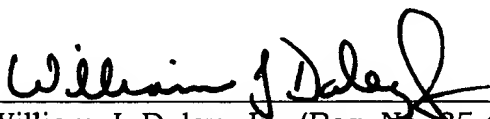
Applicants also would note that USP 5,666,208 relates to reference B2; that USP 5,841,148 relates to reference B4 and that USP 6,005,977 relates to reference B5.

Applicants also bring to the Examiner's attention that a typographical error has since been discovered in the International Search Report. Specifically, the Japanese reference JP-A 62-18088 listed in the Search Report (and also previously submitted by Applicants) is incorrect; the document number that should have been listed is JP-A 62-160668. This was confirmed with the Examiner of the International Search Report. Applicants would also note that JP-A 62-160668 is being listed in the enclosed as it also was identified in the Official Communication from the Japanese Patent Office for Japanese Application No. 10-175244


If the Examiner has any questions concerning this IDS, he/she is requested to contact the undersigned. If it is determined that this IDS has been filed under the wrong rule, the PTO is requested to consider this IDS under the proper rule, with a petition if necessary, and charge the appropriate fee to Deposit Account No. 04-1105.

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Information Disclosure Statement PTO - 1449				Atty. Docket No 55338 (70868)		Serial No. 09/720,475	
				Applicant(s): Nako, et al.			
		Filing Date December 22, 2000		Art Unit Not Yet Assigned			

UNITED STATES PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Exam. Initials	Ref. No.	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	File Date
	A1	5,953,463	9/14/1999	Tanaka et al.		
	A2	5,832,141	11/3/1998	Ishida et al.		


FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Exam. Initials	Ref. No.	Document Number	Date	Country or Office	Class	
	B1	JP-A 9-200504	7/31/1997	Japan		
	B2	JP-A 6-334856	12/02/1994	Japan		
	B3	JP-A 5-022572	01/29/1993	Japan		
	B4	JP-A 7-087295	03/31/1995	Japan		
	B5	JP-A 7-121692	05/12/1995	Japan		

OTHER DOCUMENTS (INCL. TITLE, AUTHOR, DATE, PAGES, ETC)						
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Examiner:	Date:
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UNITED STATES PATENT DOCUMENTS				NOV 07 2003	
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Exam. Initials	Ref. No.	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	File Date
	A1	6,504,628	01/7/2003	Kanno et al.		

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Exam. Initials	Ref. No.	Document Number	Date	Country or Office	Class	
	B1	CN 1201169	12/09/1998	China		

OTHER DOCUMENTS (INCL. TITLE, AUTHOR, DATE, PAGES, ETC)						
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	A2	5,841,148	11/24/1998	Some et al.		
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	B2	JP-A 9-233313	09/5/1997	Japan		
	B3	JP-A 8-82880	03/26/1996	Japan		
	B4	JP-A 9-330393	12/22/1997	Japan		
	B5	JP-A 9-35063	02/7/1997	Japan		
	B6	JP-A 7-15657	01/17/1995	Japan		

OTHER DOCUMENTS (INCL. TITLE, AUTHOR, DATE, PAGES, ETC)

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